Statement of Purpose

At the top of the document, write:
  Last Name, First Name, University ID
  The MSW Center location to which you wish to apply

Statement of Purpose

Part I – Experiences

1. Write an essay that does not exceed 1,000 words.
2. Describe:
   a. Experiences (personal, professional, academic) that influenced your decision to be or become a social worker
   b. Paid, volunteer, practicum, and life experience relevant to social work
   c. Experiences working with people who have experienced oppression
   d. Strengths you would bring to the School and the profession
   e. Challenges you have faced or are facing that may affect your readiness for graduate study and/or social work practice
   f. How you will balance graduate study with other responsibilities

Part II – Goals

1. Write an essay that is about 350 words. Do not exceed 400 words.
2. Describe:
   a. Short and long term professional social work goals. Highlight goals related to creating a more just society.
   b. Areas of your development that you will focus on during the master’s program, including practicum
   c. How the University of Iowa School of Social Work curriculum and faculty will facilitate your goals

Name the file “Statement of Purpose” and upload it to your Admissions Profile in MyUI.

Additional essay required for Online MSW Program applicants ONLY. Do not complete this section if you are applying to the MSW program in Iowa City, Des Moines, Quad Cities, or Sioux City.

1. Add the heading “Online MSW Program.”
2. Write an essay that is about 750 words.
3. In addition to Parts I and II, describe your:
   a. Academic readiness. Please take the “Are You Ready for Online” self-assessment https://distance.uiowa.edu/are-you-ready-online. Describe your assessment results and how they will inform your approach to successfully completing the online program. Describe what you learned about specific areas, such as your comfort or skill level with technology, your time management, or managing/enhancing your virtual relationships.
   b. Online learning benefits. Describe how the University of Iowa’s Online MSW Program will benefit you. Explain how an online program, rather than a classroom-based program, is a good fit for you? Specifically, describe barriers that make it difficult or impossible for you to enroll in our other learning centers (Des Moines, Iowa City, Quad Cities, or Sioux City).
   c. Structure and design of the program. Review the description of the required Summer Institutes, the format of the online classes, the two meetings per year with your geographic learning community and mentor, and practicum requirements. Describe your plan for achieving and maintaining academic success given this program structure, including identifying the resources you will draw upon to be successful. Consider resources such as academic,
personal, professional, financial, and technical. Describe any modifications you will need to make to your schedule and personal circumstances to be successful.